

Judge Main Hears Explosion Case In Roseburg

The case of the state vs. Pacific Powder company, whose explosives-laden truck was involved in the Roseburg explosion and fire last summer, is pending on a demurrer filed by the company, according to Circuit Judge James M. Main.

Judge Main this week in Roseburg heard oral arguments on the demurrer and has taken the matter under advisement, he said. A demurrer tests the sufficiency of the indictment and whether or not the indictment states a crime. This is the second grand jury indictment. Judge Main earlier sustained one demurrer.

The state, represented by the Douglas county district attorney, has charged the powder company with criminal negligence in leaving the explosives truck unattended. Does Not Conform

The company charges that the grand jury indictment does not conform to the requirements of state law, the facts stated in the indictment do not constitute a crime and the indictment contains matter which would be a legal bar to any action.

Before the Roseburg hearing, Judge Main spent two weeks in Salem substituting for Circuit Judge George Duncan who was sitting on the state supreme court. During the first part of March, Judge Main expects to spend a week in Klamath county substituting for Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg whose son, an attorney has a case scheduled for Klamath county circuit court at that time. Judge Vandenberg will exchange with Judge Main.

Father of Four Slain by Thief

Mullan, Idaho—UPI—A young father of four children was shot to death at his home Wednesday night by a thief who fled into the darkness and escaped.

The killer was still at large this morning and Sheriff Lewis Gardner said officers did not even have a description of him.

Victim was Jack Whitmore, 33.

Gardner said Whitmore had gone outside his house to get some fuel oil from a barrel and apparently surprised someone in the act of stealing the oil. The thief fired at Whitmore with a shotgun at close range.

Whitmore managed to walk back to his house, collapsed and died just inside the front door.

Sandman Aids in Sleep Problems

New York—UPI—The world's No. 1 professional sandman is celebrating his 30th year as sleeping adviser to statesmen, movie queens, multi-millionaires and even noted clergyman.

Norman Dine, 56, who has no trouble himself sleeping on a king-sized mattress of latex foam, estimates that he has handled a million bed problems during the years he has been running his sleep clinic.

President Eisenhower, for instance, finds it revitalizing to nap with his feet elevated. During World War II, Dine rushed him on request a special angle board for this purpose.

The late John Foster Dulles liked to sleep with a board under his mattress. Dine says he made him one that would fold to pack easily for his global flights.

Bicycles Pay Off For Police Work

West Palm Beach, Fla.—UPI—Police have taken to bicycles here to outwit sneak-thieves and peeping toms and Chief Robert Milburn is convinced the two-wheel mounted patrol is paying off.

A patrolman on a bike can "move quickly and most important, quietly, in an area where a prowler has been reported," Milburn explained. Besides, he said, bikes are relatively inexpensive to buy and maintain and need little storage space.

The West Palm Beach police departments owns two bicycles, but uses others found abandoned in the city when needed.

BENZINE OUTPUT
Houston—Commercial production of benzene from petroleum is now underway in plants in Texas. Benzene is important in the making of nylon, plastics and other synthetic products.

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